

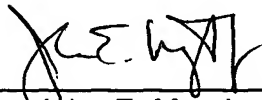
### REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 10/091,960 filed on March 6, 2002. The specification has been amended to add a reference to the parent application. Applicants have amended Claim 8, cancelled the allowed subject matter of the parent application (Claims 1-7 and 9-16) and added new Claims 17-27. Such amendment is to be construed as "truly cosmetic" and is not believed to narrow the scope of the claims or raise an estoppel within the meaning of *Festo Corporation, v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., et al.* 122 S. Ct. 1831; 152 L. Ed. 2d 944; 62 U.S.P.Q.2D (BNA) 1705. Applicants further contend that such amendment adds no new matter and finds support in the specification.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early examination and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 8 and 17-27. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for other than allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' Attorney at the telephone number given below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

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